(*Rs. in lakhs*)

Year	Revenue	Expenditure
1999-2000	913.63	211.82
2000-2001	1644.49	393.65

New VRS by State Bank of India

*132. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "SBI plans VRS to lay off 40% staff" which appeared in The Business Standard, dated the 26th May, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the scheme is likely to put in place;

(d) the steps taken to ensure that such a huge reduction in the establishment in the bank does not lead to a decline in the customer services?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. State Bank of India has reported that it has no plan to introduce another VRS in the near future. Therefore, the question of any reduction in customer services does not arise.

Export of agricultural products

*133. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new strategy has been evolved to reduce export cost of agricultural products to provide direct assistance to farmers and make their products more competitive;

(b) if so, the details thereof and in what manner it marks an improvement over the earlier agri-export strategy; and

(c) the improvement in agri-exports registered during the last three months as compared to the corresponding period last year?